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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

29 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Improved Cameras for U-2

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Deputy Director, National
Reconnaissance Office from Director, National
Reconnaissance Office, dated 23 April 1963,
same subject, ☐

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1. I have discussed the utilization of C111 instrument
No. 51 with Itek and find the following facts:

a. Instrument #51 was last used three weeks ago
for roller tests.

b. Instrument #51 was used about two months ago
for checking another batch of new rollers.

c. During the CORONA marking problem last summer
instrument #51 was used for initial testing, but final
tests had to be accomplished on a MURAL system.

d. Instrument 4-22 (110/111) used for thirty
day life tests of "J".

e. Itek concurs in the importance of having a
test unit available and has requested that a "J" be
made available for this purpose rather than using a
single C111 that is over two years old and in a dif-
ferent configuration. A "J" unit would be much pre-
ferred for trouble shooting on the system.

f. Itek was actually a month ahead of schedule
until the new accelerated schedule was directed. They
now have delivered five units to LMSC with J-4 due for
delivery next week. This places Itek back on schedule.

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2. A "J" unit could be pulled off the line for minor trouble shooting with minimum effect on schedules. Itek is re-evaluating their schedule posture to pull ahead where possible so that no schedule slippage could be expected.

3. If a major problem arose (such as the CORONA marking problem last year) the launch schedule would undoubtedly slip (as it did then) and the extra time to identify the problem and incorporate a fix on a "J" unit from the line would be absorbed in the stretch-out. Hopefully, Itek will be able to increase production to make a "J" test bed available without schedule effects. This would be ideal, and they hope to inform us the first of next week on this possibility.

4. Itek is also reviewing their schedule and production capability in light of producing two "M-type" master units, specifically for the U-2. This is estimated to be about a six months program before any flight tests could be conducted to verify that we are definitely making the degree of improvement expected.

5. If the DNRO still insists that #51 cannot be extracted from the CORONA program, we might at least "loan" this instrument to IDEALIST for testing in the U-2, subject to recall by Itek, if required on a CORONA problem.

6. and the DNRO staff did not discuss the referenced disapproval of our proposal with this office prior to sending their reply.

SIGNED

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